

REMARKS

In the November 6, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner:

1. Objected to Figure 1;
2. Objected to the Specification;
3. Rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 paragraph 2 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention because:
 - (a) the term "the thermal fusible layer of each disc protective sheet" lacked antecedent basis in claim 1;
 - (b) in claim 2, it is unclear how the protective sheet can be fixedly fused so that it is provisionally attached;
 - (c) in claim 2, the limitation "the preceding step of fixedly fusing the entire surface of the disc protective sheet" lacks antecedent basis;
 - (d) in claim 2, the limitation "the peripheral edge portion of the opening portion" lacks antecedent bases.
4. Rejected claim 1 as anticipated by Howey I (U.S. Patent No. 5,582,901);
5. Rejected claim 1 as anticipated by Howey II (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,682);
6. Rejected claim 1 as obvious over Kunio (JP 60-136981) in view of Ozawa (JP 3-176881);
7. Rejected claim 2 as obvious over Kunio and Ozawa and further in view of Sato (JP 63-258361);
8. Provisionally rejected claims 1 and 2 under obviousness type double patenting over application nos. 09/595,546; 10/285,926; and 09/742,624.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figure 1 because two different arms were labeled as "34d." Applicants have attached a replacement sheet showing that one of the two arms has been re-labeled "34c." The Examiner's objection is therefore moot.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner kindly noted a typographical error in the specification. The specification has now been amended to correct the error. The Examiner's objection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 paragraph 2

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to correct for the each deficiency noted by the Examiner pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112 paragraph 2. The Examiner's rejections are therefore moot.

Rejections of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Applicants have amended claim 1 by adding limitations relating to the method for attaching a disc protective sheet to each half body section of a disc cartridge body. Specifically, claim 1 now recites "supporting the half body section by a supporting mechanism which comprises a supporting member for supporting the half body section formed by elastic body and is adapted so that plural groove portions are formed at the supporting surface side for supporting the half body section." Only the Sato reference describes making a device for a floppy disk jacket. The Sato reference does not however teach or suggest "supporting the half body section by a supporting mechanism which comprises a supporting member for supporting the half body section formed by elastic body and is adapted so that plural groove portions are formed at the supporting

surface side for supporting the half body section." Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated nor rendered obvious by any of the references cited by the Examiner.

Provisional rejections under Obviousness-type Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 for obviousness-type double patenting in view of three patent applications that are commonly owned by the assignee of the present application. These applications are: 09/595,546; 10/285,926; and 09/742,624. Applicants have verified that all three applications are commonly owned by the assignee of the present application. However, two of the applications (10/285,926; and 09/742,624) are abandoned. *See attached report from PAIRS*. Since these applications are not likely to issue, there is no term to disclaim based on these applications.

With respect to 09/595,546, a terminal disclaimer has been attached thereby overcoming the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are ready for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Enrique Perez
Registration No. 43,853
SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000